



Work is underway in Wilkin County, Minnesota on the first phase of Buffalo-Red River Watershed District's \$10.4 million Wolverton Creek restoration. It's designed to curb soil erosion and flood damage to fields, augment wildlife and fisheries habitat, and cut Fargo-Moorhead's drinking water treatment costs.

By the end of November, contractors will move more than 270,000 cubic yards of fill as part of a \$3.7 million re-meandering of the stream's stagnant 7-mile midsection (Phase I).

Most of the 45 landowners involved in the three-phase project will enroll in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for permanent buffers. It is hoped by spring 2020 all three phases will be complete, and a 300- to 750-foot-wide strip of permanent, high-quality wildlife habitat will be planted along the 21-mile-long creek to its Red River outlet.

The three-phase project involves funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Targeted Watershed and Clean Water Fund grants), the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund and an Enbridge Eco Footprint grant.

The BRRWD established a water management budget of about \$1 million. Landowners within the watershed will be charged for long-term maintenance.

Along with landowners, BRRWD's partners include Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District, Clay Soil & Water Conservation District and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The Farm Service Agency permitted the channel restoration on land already enrolled in CRP contracts.